

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for forming a catalyst layer on a substrate constituting a membrane electrode assembly, whereby a catalyst layer is formed by allowing electrode powder to adhere disperse by electrostatic force and extruding force to the substrate, comprising:

providing a screen having a mesh facing a substrate in a state of non-contact;
disposing an elastic body in a state of contact with a surface of the screen to supply the electrode powder to the screen;

applying voltage between the screen and the substrate so as to electrically charge the electrode powder supplied to the screen and to generate an electric field between the screen and the substrate in which the electrically charged electrode powder moves;

pressing the electrode powder supplied to the screen by an-the elastic body towards the screen and deforming the elastic body while being pressed against the screen to allow the elastic body to at least partly enter into the mesh of the screen so as to exude the electrode powder through the mesh of the screen towards the substrate;
and

disposing dispersing the electrode powder on-towards the substrate so as to adhere thereto by the electrostatic force and the extruding force of the elastic body.

Claim 2 (canceled).

Claim 3 (canceled).

Claim 4 (original): The method for forming the catalyst layer on the substrate constituting a membrane electrode assembly according to any one of claims 1-3, wherein the substrate is an electrolyte membrane or a gas diffusion layer.

Claim 5 (currently amended): An apparatus for forming a catalyst layer on a substrate constituting a membrane electrode assembly, in which a catalyst layer is formed by allowing electrode powder to ~~adhere~~disperse by electrostatic force and extrusion force to the substrate, comprising:

a screen for providing the electrode powder to the substrate;

a means for holding a screen in a state of non-contact with the substrate;

a means for holding an elastic body in a state of contact with a surface of the screen so as to supply the electrode powder to the screen;

a means for applying a voltage between the screen and the substrate so as to electrically charge the electrode powder supplied to the screen and generate an electric field between the screen and the substrate in which the electrically charged electrode powder moves;

a means for supplying electrode powder to the screen; and

a means for pressing the electrode powder supplied to the screen by the elastic body towards the substrate, wherein the elastic body is deformed while being pressed against the screen and at least partly enters into the mesh of the screen so as to extrude the electrode powder from the mesh of the screen~~an elastic body for pressing the electrode powder supplied to the screen in order to exude the electrode powder through the screen toward the substrate, and~~

wherein the electrode powder is adhered to the substrate by the electrostatic force provided by the voltage applying means and the extruding force provided by the elastic body.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The apparatus for forming the catalyst layer on the substrate constituting a membrane electrode assembly according to claim 5, further comprising:

a hopper that accommodates electrode powder and a feed roller installed on the outlet side of the hopper, in which the feed roller is allowed to roll in contact with the screen by pressure, and wherein the feed roller constitutes a means of supplying electrode powder to the screen and a means of pressing electrode powder supplied on the screen toward the substrate, which is an electrolyte membrane or a gas diffusion layer.

Claim 7 (original): The apparatus for forming the catalyst layer on the substrate constituting a membrane electrode assembly according to claim 6, comprising a means by which electrode powder accommodated in the hopper is electrically charged.

Claim 8 (canceled).

Claim 9 (canceled).

Claim 10 (canceled).